(c) whether it is a fact that only after protest from residents and farmers, the first treatment plant of the country was set up to control pollution of water;

(d) whether Government are planning to construct more such plants to treat water pollution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The State of Rajasthan, including Pali area, is known for its water scarcity linked to annual average rainfall.

(b) to (e) Pali has a cluster of small scale dying and printing textile units, the effluents from which need treatment before their discharge. The first Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) at Pali was, accordingly, set up in 1983 by RIICO (Rajasthan State Industrial Development and investment Corporation Ltd.) for control of water pollution. The plans for mitigating water pollution from these textile units include upgradation of three existing CETPs, laying of pucca drain and construction of a new CETP in the area.

Development of forest wealth

2635. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a road map for the development of forest wealth in the country through an integrated and holistic approach of the problems of environment, wild life and tribal people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the same has been reflected in the provision of the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 presently pending in Parliament; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has prepared a comprehensive plan (National Forestry Action Programme) for 20 years for protection, conservation, management and sustainable development of forests as well as achieving the target of 33% of forest/free cover in the country.

(c) and (d) The Draft Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005, introduced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the Parliament, has the provisions of rights of Scheduled Tribes on forest land and minor forest produce. The Draft Bill does not deal with the development of forest wealth.

Environmental clearance for residential and non-residential projects

2636. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether draft notification issued on 15th September, 2005 proposes certain restrictions and prohibitions on the construction of all residential and non-residential projects and the developement of new townships and real-estate developers have to seek prior environmental clearance;

(b) whether the demand has been made to exempt residential complex and individual IT parks from the notification;

(c) if so, whether suitable amendment is being made in the notification;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The draft notification issued on 15th September, 2005 proposes certain restrictions and prohibitions only on construction of residential and non-residential projects with built up area/activity area of 20,000 sq. meters or more and on the development of new townships located in an area of 50 ha. or more.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) A large number of objections/suggestions have been received in response to the draft Environment Impact Assessment notification published on 15.09.2005 and the final notification in respect of new regulation can be issued only after consideration of all the objections/ suggestions.